indicate that the long distance metered call units have decreased by about 20% on an a average during February 2002. The long distance metered call units and revenue receipts are expected to grow in the coming months with the change in the subscriber's calling habits.

Statement

Pulse rates in seconds offered by National Long Distance Operators (BSNL and India One)

Distance Slabs in Kms.	BSNL			India One		
	Full pulse Rate	Concessional Pulse rates		Full pulse rates	i Concessional Pulse rates	
	Week Days	Week Days	National Holidays & Sunday	Week Days	Week Days	National Holidays & Sunday
	09.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs	20.00 hrs to 09.00 hrs	24 hrs	09.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs	20.00 hrs to 09.00 hrs	24 hrs
0-50	180	180	180	180	180	180
> 50-200	30	60	60	30	60	60
> 200-500	15	30	30	15	30	30
>500	8	16	16	8	16	16

* NLDO rates offered by India One are applicable for long distance calls made from cellular mobile to cellular mobile only.

VPT Facility in Gujarat

1191. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with the Village Public Telephone facility in Gujarat;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats provided to have been provided with this facility by March, 2000 and 2001 in the State;

(c) whether the facility has been provided by the stipulated time;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the said facility is likely to be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Out of 13510 Gram Panchayats telephone facility has been provided in 12542 villages as on 31.1.2002

(b) to (e) The private basic telephone service provider is to provide telephone facility in remaining Gram Panchayats in the State by December 2002-*against the target of September, 1998.

Post offices In NER

1192. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open post offices in tribal remote and far-flung areas of NER;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) One Branch Post Office has been opened each at Yupia in tribal area of Aurnachal Pradesh and at Rangmavin tribal area of Meghalaya and three Branch Post Offices have been opened in Sikkim State one each at Upper-Khamdong, Lunsing Ralong and Meli-Aching during the year 2001-2002

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) New Post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are